

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end;
a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end, the said first section of the lever member is pivotally attached to the first section of the said base member;
means of wedging under the staple crossbar;
means of lifting the staple from the substrate using the leverage from the lever member pivotally attached to the base member, where the said lifting means does not extend below the baseline of the said base member during the staple removing operation;
means of supporting and continuing to support the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said base member.

Claim 2 (original)

Claim 3 (original)

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 1, including means of increasing the friction of the base member to the substrate.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the friction increasing means comprises of a rubber material attached to the underside of the base member.

Claim 6 (original)

Claim 7 (original)

Claim 8 (original)

Claim 9 (original)

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the said preventing means comprises of notches in the tip of the said teeth tongue.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the teeth is above the said tongue of the base member, to a second position where the teeth overlaps the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the front edges of the teeth are curved such that when the lever member is moved from the said first position to the said second position, the said front edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the base member.

Claim 12 (original)

Claim 13 (original)

Claim 14 (withdrawn)

Claim 15 (original)

Claim 16 (original)

Claim 17 (original)

Claim 18 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler base;
[[and]] a staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the teeth is above the said tongue of the stapler base, to a second position where the teeth overlaps the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the front edges of the teeth are curved such that when the staple driving lever is moved from the said first position to the said second position, the said front edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the stapler base;
and means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a tongued member attached to the front end of the base of the said stapler;
a teethed member attached to the front end of the staple driving lever of the said stapler;
a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said tongued member;
[[and]] a staple lifting means comprises of the said teethed member attached to the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the teeth is above the said tongue of the tongued member, to a second position where the teeth overlaps the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the front edges of the teeth are curved such that when the staple driving lever is moved from the said first position to the said second position, the said front edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the tongued member;
means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to a staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a chambered lever member that houses the staple driving lever of the said stapler;
a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler base;
[[and]] a staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the teeth is above the said tongue of the base member, to a second position

where the teeth overlaps the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the front edges of the teeth are curved such that when the lever member is moved from the said first position to the said second position, the said front edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the base member;

means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim Error! Reference source not found., wherein the staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the tip of the said teeth is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the tip of the teeth is well above the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the bottom edges of the teeth are curved such that when the lever member is moved from the said first position to the second position, the said bottom edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the base member.

Claim 22 (original)

Claim 23 (original)

Claim 24 (original)

Claim 25 (original)

Claim 26 (original)

Claim 27 (original)

Claim 28 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler base;
[[and]] a staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the tip of the said teeth is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the tip of the teeth is well above the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the bottom edges of the teeth are curved such that when the staple driving lever is moved from the said first position to the second position, the said bottom edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the stapler base;
means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a tongued member attached to the front end of the base of the said stapler;
a teethed member attached to the front end of the staple driving lever of the said stapler;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said tongued member;
[[and]] a staple lifting means comprises of the said toothed member attached to the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the tip of the said teeth is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the tip of the teeth is well above the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the bottom edges of the teeth are curved such that when the stapler driving lever is moved from the said first position to the second position, the said bottom edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the tongued member;

means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 30 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to a staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;

a chambered lever member that houses the staple driving lever of the said stapler;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler base;

the staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the said teeth is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the teeth is well above the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts [[it]] the said staple from the substrate; additionally the bottom edges of the teeth are curved such that when the lever member is moved from the said first position to the second position, the said bottom edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the stapler base;

means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[2]] **30**, wherein:

the said tongue extends from the front end of the said staple driving lever;

the base member is a chambered member such that the lever member fits inside the base member;

and the staple lifting means comprises of the said tongue which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the baseline of the tongue is flush with the baseline of the base member, to a second position where the tongue is well above the baseline of the base member, the said tongue lifts the staple from the substrate.

Claim 32 (original)

Claim 33 (original)

Claim 34 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler driving lever;

[[and]] the staple lifting means comprises of the said tongue which extends from the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is

moved from a first position where the baseline of the tongue is flush with the baseline of the stapler base, to a second position where the tongue is well above the baseline of the stapler base, the said tongue lifts the staple from the substrate; means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

Claim 35 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a tongued member attached to the front end of the staple driving lever of the said stapler;
a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said tongued member;
[[and]] a staple lifting means comprises of the said tongued member attached to the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the baseline of the tongue is flush with the baseline of the stapler base, to a second position where the tongue is well above the baseline of the stapler base, the said tongue lifts the staple from the substrate;
means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base

Claim 36 (currently amended): An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;
a chambered lever member that houses the staple driving lever of the said stapler, and is pivotally attached to the staple driving lever at a first section near the front end;
a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said chambered lever member;
a staple lifting means comprises of the said tongue which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the baseline of the tongue is flush with the baseline of the stapler base, to a second position where the tongue is well above the baseline of the stapler base, the said tongue lifts the staple from the substrate;
means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.